

Youth Services Strategic 3 Year Implementation Plan



Table of Contents

1. Purpose of the Youth Strategic Services Plan
2. History of Youth Services
3. Three Year Strategic Plan Outcomes
4. Planning Process
5. Why is this good for our community
6. Summary and Completion



The Purpose

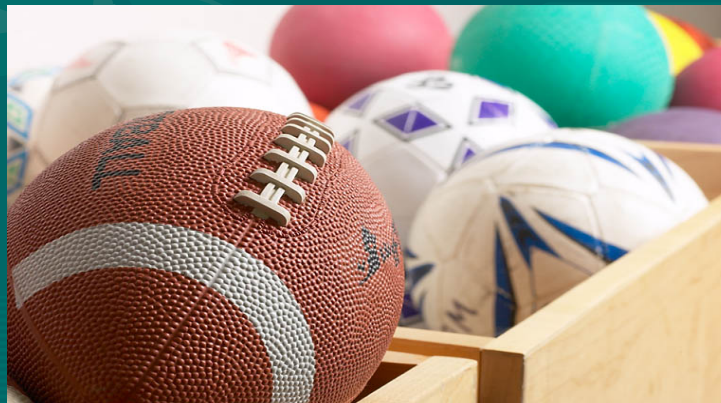
To create a three year plan to increase variety of recreation opportunities for the youth of Markham.

“A community where youth have the space, support and freedom to play tends to be one with less crime and more post-secondary graduates.”



The History

- 1999 – Youth Recreation and Library Services feasibility study completed.
- Status of Recommendations of the 1999 feasibility study
- 1. Create a focal point for youth for youth information – MY TF website, Youth newsletter, Information Bulletin Boards at local Community Centres – further development required is needed on getting the information out to youth
- 2. Create Youth Friendly environments – a training package completed to train staff on how to work with youth effectively
- 3. Youth need to be directly involved in planning programs – youth councils and MYTF are consulted on new services and creating new events (Youth week, 3 on 3 tournaments, DJ contests etc.)
- 4. Youth Centres to be included in new facilities – Angus Glen
- 5. Facility space allocated in existing facilities – Increase in drop in programs at Milliken Mills, Armadale, Thornhill



History Continued

- 2004 – Program Coordinators reviewed the present status of youth services , status of feasibility study recommendations and customer feedback
- 2004 – Identified gaps in service and Strategic outcomes to address gaps
- 2005 - Youth services were identified as a priority in the 2005 proposed Master Plan (Service Delivery Recommendations, pg. 37)

Strategic Outcomes

As identified and prioritized by the recreation staff. The Three Year Plan will ensure that Youth services:

Establish Community Partners

- Youth to be involved in planning and development of youth programs
- Build partnerships with community stakeholders in delivery of youth services including YMCA, YRDSB etc.

Provide Adequate Social Marketing

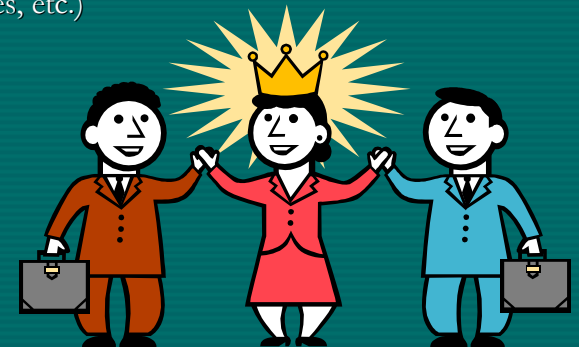
- Develop public education efforts to provide information about recreation services that will engage youth
- Create a focal point for youth information distribution

Increase Participation Levels

- Enhance program opportunities for youth that reflect the current trends and demographics
- Increase access for youth to participate in recreation (drop in programs, youth centres, etc.)
- Space dedicated to youth at all community centres

Ensure Adequate Human Resources

- Review staff resources allocated to the delivery of youth services
- Apply for Play Work's Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program
- Create youth friendly environment at town facilities



The Plan

The Three Year Plan will provide the information required to strategically accommodate the needs for Youth in Markham by:

- Collecting data to project the changing needs of youth in Markham
- Catalogue the existing recreation services targeting the Youth market
- Identify and prioritize service gaps
- Review and update the current Youth Service Model
- Establish a mechanism to review cost recovery ratios for youth services



The Process

An outline of the process of creating the three year plan will include the following. To be completed by Sept. 2005.

- Obtain recreation staff input concerning youth services and our present delivery model.
- Obtain input from youth community, via focus groups, questioners and discussion groups with MYTF, Ambassadors Group and Area Youth Councils.
- Catalogue the existing recreation services targeting the youth market.
- Identify and prioritize service gaps.
- Draft a three year implementation plan to address the identified service gaps.
- Obtain final input from recreation staff on feasibility of implementation plan.
- Submit Youth Strategic Plan to Council for approval.

The Benefits

Community Vision:

“Recreation, sports and arts/culture can reduce racism – building understanding between diverse cultures.” – *Harmony in diversity*

Corporate Goals:

“Recreation, sport, and arts/culture build self-esteem and positive self-image – foundations to personal quality of life. - *Quality community; ‘we care program’*

Strategic Priorities:

“Lack of investment and cutbacks in arts and recreation resources along with increasing user fees and volunteer burn out, means that youth are being shut out of activities and places where they once thrived.” – *Improving standards of service and service delivery*

“Recreation, sport and arts/culture reduce self-destructive behaviour and negative social activity in youth” – *Promote safer streets*

“Recreation provides safe, developmental opportunities for the *latch-key* youth”
- *Create a better quality of community*



Summary

The recreation services provide excellent social, physical and volunteer opportunities to help keep youth healthier and involved in their communities. They also provide a vehicle to maintain a feeling of self worth and integrity. It is important that the Town and Recreation Services Department strategically manage the growth to meet these services needs.





Questions

